

**REMARKS**

Claims 1- 13 and 16 - 22 are pending. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 19 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being dependent from a cancelled claims (i.e.; Claim 14). Applicants have changed the dependency of these claims to Claim 16. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1 - 8, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over JP 61-249,500 issued to Honda for the reasons of record stated at page 3 of the Office Action. Honda teaches removal of stains in garments by applying a piece of paper or fabric soaked in water or detergent to the stained portion of the garment and applying an ultrasonic wave generating head to the fabric, paper or stained portion of the garment.

Claims 1 - 4, 6 - 8, 13, 16, and 18 - 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 07-047,197 issued to Takaaki et al. Takaaki purports to teach an atomizing iron.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaaki in view of U.S. 4,656,763 issued to Kawasaki for the reasons of record stated on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action.

Claims 9, 11 - 13, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda for the reasons of record stated at page 5 of the Office Action.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 13, 16, 19, 21, and 22 have been amended to more particularly define Applicants' invention. Support for the amendments are found on page 8, lines 3 - 10 of the instant application. None of the references cited in the Office Action teach or suggest *inter alia* a means for preventing the generation of heat. Hence, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**SUMMARY**

As the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, §102(b), §103(a) have been overcome, Applicants believe the claims are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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